

APRIL PYRON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud April Pyron for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

April Pyron is a student at Arvada K–8 School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by April Pyron is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to April Pyron for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTOPHER THOMAS FOR HIS SERVICE AS MICHIGAN'S DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christopher Thomas for his distinguished service on behalf of the State of Michigan. As the state's Director of Elections for the past 36 years, Mr. Thomas has served Michigan voters well through his rigorous oversight of the state's electoral processes.

Mr. Thomas began his career in 1974 managing campaign finance regulations at U.S. House of Representatives and later moved to the Federal Election Commission, where he worked with candidates to ensure compliance with federal election laws. As a result of his performance, Mr. Thomas was appointed to be Michigan's Director of Elections in 1981 by Michigan Secretary of State Richard Austin. As Director of Elections, Mr. Thomas has overseen 1,600 clerks in counties, townships and cities across the state to run Michigan elections and work to staff and train workers. Throughout his time as director, Mr. Thomas has earned a reputation as an effective administrator who impartially handled Michigan's elections. He is also well-regarded among his peers, having served as president of the National Association of State Election Directors, a national forum that shares best practices on running accurate and transparent elections in 2013.

Mr. Thomas has been a model Director of Elections who has served the State of Michigan with distinction. Under his leadership, Michigan has successfully leveraged advances in technology to improve the functioning of our state's electoral processes. In addition, Mr. Thomas is well-known for his nonpartisan handling of elections and thorough knowledge of procedure and election law. He also served on

President Obama's Presidential Commission on Election Administration, which enabled him to utilize his decades of knowledge to improve the election experience for America's voters. He has been an outstanding leader during his career in election administration, and I wish him well as he retires after an extraordinary career serving Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Christopher Thomas for his 36 years of public service as Michigan's Director of Elections and his leadership in the nation for ensuring fair elections throughout the country. Mr. Thomas's work has helped ensure the integrity and accessibility of Michigan's elections.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS STANLEY CUP VICTORY**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I'm very excited to say congratulations, once again, to the Pittsburgh Penguins on winning the 2017 Stanley Cup.

For those of you who don't know, the Penguins also won the Stanley Cup last year—making them back-to-back champions. That hasn't been done since the late 1990s and since the salary cap was put in place. It was truly a historic achievement, and the City of Pittsburgh could not be more excited. This is the 5th Stanley Cup for the Penguins franchise.

Over the course of the season—and particularly the playoffs—the Penguins showed the grit, resiliency, and determination that is emblematic of the City of Pittsburgh. They battled through injury after injury, tough games, hostile arenas, changing rosters—you name it, they faced it. And yet they came out on top every time.

Throughout the course of the playoffs, they bested the Columbus Blue Jackets in the first round, winning handily in a 4–1 series. Next, they came here to D.C. and faced the No. 1-seed Washington Capitals. Well, for the ninth time in 10 playoff matchups, the Pens defeated the Capitals in a brutal 7-game series that also (temporarily) knocked out our Captain, Sidney Crosby. But the thing about Pittsburgh—and the Pens—is that a knock-out punch just won't keep us down for long. They moved right along and trucked through the Ottawa Senators 4–2 to make it back to the Stanley Cup Finals for the second year in a row.

Now, I would like to congratulate the Nashville Predators on a magical run through the playoffs and a hard-fought final series. But ultimately, it wasn't enough to overcome the Penguins' skill, experience, hustle, and determination.

In a riveting Game 6, neither team had scored a goal and the end of regulation was quickly approaching. With only 95 seconds left on the clock, Patric Hornqvist managed to use the Predator's goalie himself to get the puck in the net. Left with few options, the Preds had to pull their goalie which allowed the Penguins to get an empty-net goal with seconds remaining. It was the perfect end to a historic season.

I would particularly like to congratulate Sidney Crosby on winning his second back-to-back Conn Smythe Trophy, one of only three players ever to do so. The last player to win back-to-back? The Pens very own Mario Lemieux.

The City of Pittsburgh is welcoming home another championship trophy, and for that I would like to once again thank and congratulate the 2017 Stanley Cup Champion Pittsburgh Penguins. Welcome back to Pittsburgh, Lord Stanley.

RED ROCKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION CHALLENGE**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the team from Red Rocks Community College on becoming a finalist for a third year in a row in the National Science Foundation's Community College Innovation Challenge. This program serves as an innovative way for community college students to partner with local industries to create pioneering STEM-based solutions for real world issues. The Community College Innovation Challenge is an important example of encouraging STEM education and research for our nation's students and future leaders. I congratulate all of the competition's participants for their work on a variety of important projects.

The Red Rocks team tackled the important issue of practical cyber workforce training. By creating a cyber-lab learning environment, students can expand real-world skills in practical work situations in a safer and more controlled environment. This project demonstrates how we can enhance classroom learning by allowing students to apply their skills in real-world situations and be better prepared for the skills and tasks necessary in the workforce.

I congratulate the Red Rocks Team of Bill Cherrington, Isaac Kerley, Joseph Murdock, Bruno Salvatico and John Sanchez for their success. I applaud this group for their dedication to this important project and their leadership and commitment to STEM education blazing a path for our country's future leaders and innovators. I am proud of the work Red Rocks Community College does every day and I look forward to seeing what the school and these students accomplish in the years to come.

HONORING SERVICE ACADEMY STUDENTS**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Karrington Evans, John Paul Post of Altus, Randall Parker Ross of Hot Springs, Katie Welch of Percy, Briston Yarbrough of Danville. These star students from the Fourth District of Arkansas will have the honor of attending the service academies this Fall.

Briston will attend the Air Force Academy; Parker will attend West Point; John Paul and Katie will attend the Naval Academy; and Karrington will attend the Naval Academy Preparatory School.

Arkansas has a history of academy alumni. These include General Douglas MacArthur—Supreme Allied Commander in the Pacific during World War II, and Brigadier General William O. Darby, leader of what would later become the Army Rangers. Their example is one of courage and excellence under any circumstances. With this rich tradition before them and through their own accomplishments, there's no doubt these students will do their very best—bringing honor to themselves, their families, and their state.

I wish them well in their service careers and success in whatever they pursue.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPASSIONATE ACCESS, RESEARCH EXPANSION AND RESPECT STATES (CARERS) ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Compassionate Access, Research Expansion and Respect States Act, also known as the CARERS Act. This bipartisan, bicameral bill would allow states to set their own policies on medical marijuana, allow states to import Cannabidiol to treat patients with seizures, give the Veterans Administration physicians the ability to recommend medical marijuana to patients and improve opportunities for research on marijuana.

The consensus on medical marijuana is already overwhelming and continues to build. According to a Quinnipiac University poll, 93 percent of Americans believe people should be allowed to use medically prescribed marijuana.

93 percent of Americans rarely agree on anything.

In November, North Dakota, Montana, Florida and Arkansas joined a growing majority of states that have legalized medical marijuana. Twenty-nine states plus the District of Columbia have approved medical marijuana.

Even CNN's Chief Medical Correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta, who was once skeptical of medical marijuana, has publicly endorsed it.

Yet, our federal laws continue to treat patients and the doctors and families who care for them like criminals.

It is long overdue for our federal law to reflect the common sense views of 93 percent of Americans and stop adding to the suffering of those with horrible illnesses.

One such patient was my constituent, Chloe Grauer. At 3 years old, Chloe suffered from a rare neurological disease that caused her to have 100 to 200 seizures a day. She tried dozens of medications and underwent surgical procedures but nothing stopped the seizures.

Her family tried desperately to treat her with Cannabidiol—also known as “Charlotte's Web” or “CBD” for short—which has been shown to treat certain diseases that cause seizures, such as the disease from which Chloe suffered. CBD is derived from cannabis plants, and even though it contains just trace

amounts of the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana—nowhere near enough to produce a high—but it is currently illegal under federal law. Even this tiny amount of the ingredient, THC, was enough for the federal government to keep a potentially life-saving drug away from Chloe.

Chloe died without receiving CBD.

This should never have happened. We must ensure that this never happens again.

Just as our children deserve to be treated compassionately, so, too, do our veterans. Federal law currently prohibits VA doctors from prescribing medical marijuana when they feel it is medically beneficial. Our veterans deserve the best medical advice from their doctors, not arbitrary limits on what their doctors can do to help them. Veterans are tough. They can handle frank advice from their doctors.

I want to thank my colleague DON YOUNG of Alaska for his partnership on this bill as well as Senators CORY BOOKER, KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, RAND PAUL, MIKE LEE, AL FRANKEN and LISA MURKOWSKI for their leadership on this legislation. I urge both the House and Senate to pass this swiftly.

ANNASELIA SAMORA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Annaselia Samora for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Annaselia Samora is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Annaselia Samora is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Annaselia Samora for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**MISSOURI CITY TEACHER
PARTICIPATES IN PBS PROGRAM**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Krissy Venosdale of Missouri City, TX, for being selected as a participant in the 2017 PBS Digital Innovators Program.

Krissy, who serves as the Kinkaid School's lower school innovation coordinator, was recognized for developing the “Launch Pad” at her school. The “Launch Pad” is a space for students to expand their horizons in both a creative and technological fashion, using a blend of bright colors and high-tech tools to

help students practice out-of-the-box methods. Out of the 52 participants selected, Krissy is the only educator from TX to participate in the PBS Digital Innovators Program. As part of this program, Krissy will have access to ongoing professional development, share her ideas on PBS platforms, utilize the PBS LearningMedia resources and attend the 2017 PBS Digital Summit this summer.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Krissy Venosdale for being selected as a participant in the 2017 PBS Digital Innovators Program. We are extremely proud and are looking forward to her future innovative educational platforms.

**TRIBUTE TO DR. WALTER R.
BOYNTON**

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and contributions to Maryland's Fifth District of estuarine ecologist Dr. Walter R. Boynton of St. Leonard, Maryland, on the occasion of his retirement.

A native of Massachusetts, Dr. Boynton first came to Maryland and encountered the majestic waters of the Chesapeake Bay, something which would become the focus of his scientific studies for the remainder of his career, in 1969 as a summer student at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL) in Solomons, Maryland. Following the receipt of his Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Florida, Dr. Boynton returned to CBL in 1975 as a young professor. At that time his research focused on the decline of submerged aquatic vegetation. He recognized that these declines were related to increases in nutrients flowing into the Chesapeake that caused an overabundance of single-celled algae, which reduced the clarity of the water and ultimately led to deeper portions of the Bay becoming devoid of oxygen. Dr. Boynton was part of a team of CBL researchers, including Chris D'Elia, Jim Sanderson, and Don Heinle, that redefined what we know about nutrient dynamics and how they bring about eutrophication—or the overabundance of plant life at the expense of animal life in bodies of water.

A long-standing relationship, forged on the softball diamond, between CBL researchers and the local community led to a close working partnership and deep personal friendship between Dr. Boynton and then-State Senator Bernie Fowler, who remains a close friend of mine. It was Senator Fowler who led efforts in federal court to force regional jurisdictions to adhere to the Clean Water Act. Former Senator Fowler credits Dr. Boynton with deepening his own understanding of the ecology of the Bay and the Patuxent River, allowing him to become an effective advocate and well-respected citizen-scientist, bringing attention to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. On June 11, I joined former Senator Fowler for his annual “wade-in” to check the clarity of the Patuxent River and learned of Dr. Boynton's upcoming retirement.

In addition to an internationally respected research career, Dr. Boynton has been a highly effective educator, teaching generations of